

The 50 MHz DX Bulletin

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Issue #1

The 50 MHz DX Bulletin was founded by Harry Schools KA3B, is edited by Shel Remington NI6E/KH6, and is published by Victor Frank K6FV. Issued at irregular intervals as frequently as practical, it is dedicated to the understanding and utilization of long-distance propagation in the 6-meter Amateur band. Annual air-mail subscriptions cost \$20.00 in the US; US\$22.00 in Canada; US\$25.00 elsewhere. Make subscription remittances payable to Sheldon Remington and send to P. O. Box 1222, Keaau HI 96749, U.S.A.; DX reports are very welcome and should also be sent to the above address. This Bulletin may be freely quoted, provided that credit is given. All dates and times are Universal Time, and given in ISO/ANSI sequence: year/month/date/time.

SILENT KEYS

Joel F. Paladino N6AMG passed away on December 7. He was one of the most dedicated 6m men on the West Coast during the past two decades. Joel was a brilliant RF engineer (see his 2-54 MHz solid-state kw amp in QST 1992 September), always quick to help his many friends with technical support. He authored EMI at the Receiver, chapter 11 of the ARRL's *Radio Frequency Interference: How to Find It and Fix It* handbook. He set up a linked repeater system tying together northern and southern California 6m DXers, and supplied 6m equipment at his own expense to such DX stations as CN8ST, PY5CC, and ZK1CG, as well as equipping the recent Clipperton DXpedition with 6m gear. He also supplied transmitters for the FO5DR and K6FV 50 MHz beacons. Unlike many techie-types, Joel also loved DX operating, leading numerous multi-op mountaintop VHF contest operations, and conducting his own kilowatt 6m DXpeditions to such places as KH8, 5W1, VK9L, CN8, and CU1. With his quick wit and big station, he was a key player on the 28885 coordination frequency. None of us who knew him will ever forget this unique and wonderful person, and six meters is very much the worse for his loss.

Rudy Weichers V51W is now a silent key. This sad loss happened early in the morning of September 19 while aboard a boat with V51DM and other friends. A heart failure made him fall overboard, and he was found and picked up some twelve hours later. About 53 years old and secretary to the Namibian Amateur Radio League, Rudy used to be the only Namibian station QRV on 6m later than 2000z when usually the others all go QRT. Tnx 9H5EE.

THE KA3B LISTS

Harry Schools KA3B, who recently received a well-deserved SMIRK Award of Merit, writes to advise of his plans for 1993 6-meter lists. Due to a new work assignment, he will be unable to produce a 1993 version of the International 50 MHz Beacon List, but hopefully a new version will be available next year. He does expect to publish a 1993 version of the QSL Managers List, which should be available by April or May. Harry's address: 1606 South Newkirk Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145.

PROPAGATION REVIEW

The past 4 months have seen quite a lot of DX for those in the geomagnetic tropics, and somewhat less for those in the temperate zones. The quantity has not been so large as to be impossible to summarize (unlike a year earlier), so here is a nutshell version.

The only known long-path opening of the past season took place at 2230z on November 7, when CU1EZ heard VS6SIX/b. However, N5JHV did hear L-P 49.75 MHz video from the Far East over Africa on October 25 at 1320-1330.

The antipodal circuit between South America and the Far East opened on 11 dates, in the period 2300-0246. The first opening was September 30, and the last was November 25. Participating on the S.A. end were LU, CX, ZP, PY1-2-5, PP5, and PY0F; from the Far East were JA1-2-7-8, JR6, BV2DP, and VS6/b.

JA6 and JR6 stations had exotic DX from the Indian Ocean basin, including 9K2, VQ9QM, the FR5 beacon, and 7Q7's. This occurred on 7 dates from September 26 to November 1, in the period 0914 to 1515, except the 9K2 which was 0600.

VK3OT pried open the path to Europe on November 13 and 24, into PA and G around 0910z. Reportedly the northern VK6's had Malta and who knows what else, or when. Apparently nothing occurred between Europe and Japan or the Pacific.

The only really distant thing heard in Hawaii was the good old ZD8 beacon at 15,600 km, which oddly proved even more regular than in the previous years. It happened on 11 dates from October 11 to December 13, in the period 2104-0155.

Between Europe and Africa, things went well, with openings reported on at least 15 dates (and probably many more) between September 5 and November 26 in the period 0930-2159. Active on the African end were such countries as ZS, ZS9, V51, 7Q7, 3X0, and ZD8.

Around the Atlantic, there is one strange report that PT7OO was hearing an unspecified ZS beacon loudly every day around mid-September. The only other central or southern Africa to S.A. propagation reported, other than the regular PY5-to-ZD8 route, was TU4 into PY0F late on October 28.

However, the S.A.-to-Europe paths were fine, opening on at least 15 dates from September 5 to November 8, in the wide window 1803-0110. On the S.A. end, participants included LU, PY, and ZP; in Europe and northwest Africa, CN, EA8, EA9, CU, CT, EA, ZB, F, 9H, I, SV, YU, OE, DL, PA, ON, LX, G, GW, and GJ.

Trans-Atlantic openings into North America have been very few; in fact, I'm not aware of anything occurring yet between Europe and N.A. There were reports of

V51VHF/b into VE1 on October 23 at 1515 and October 27 at 1248, and K1TOL heard ZD8VHF/b on November 4 at 0034.

11 dates from September 11 to December 19 showed PY-CX-LU into W/VE. These were mostly restricted to southern W4-5, with two exceptions. September 11 around 2220, VE1MQ heard CX4HS, who was working Mexico. And the main event was PY5CC's opening November 4 around 0000, during which Peter worked VE1, VE3, and W1, among others.

Caribbean-region F, from J37, VP2E, 9Y4, YV, PJ2, and TI was reported everywhere from W1/VE3 to W6 during a 3-day streak November 23-25 between 1355 and 1500. Then December 29 at 1700-1745, stations from Louisiana to San Diego had HH7, J37, and YV4.

After a late start, the America-to-South Pacific F, has been performing fairly well. Openings have been reported on 20 days beginning with October 28, including a stretch in late November when it opened on 6 days out of 9. The time pattern is the same as in past years: the earliest report was 1840, and the latest was 0330. Participating on the east end have been KS-OK-TX-NM-CO-NV-AZ-CA-XE1-XE2-TI-YV, and on the west end ZL1-2-3, VK2-3-4, and A35. One evening TEP opening was reported by FO5DR, hearing the K6FV/b at 0630 on October 13.

The N.A.-to-Hawaii F, has been as poor as late 1990, with only 19 days showing propagation, and one or two of those might have been multihop E. The footprint has not extended beyond a line from San Antonio, TX to Portland, OR. Intra-Pacific DX has been adequate, including both the daytime and nighttime paths. JA/VS6/DU have been into Hawaii on 22 dates from September 29 to December 30 in the period 2247-0711. VK/ZL/South Pacific paths across the equator into KH6/JA/BV/etc. have been open almost daily, and South America to KH6 has also been good.

The high-latitude F, seems totally absent (Japan-Alaska-U.S. paths); the only known near-opening was N5JHV's 49.75 MHz short-path video reception early on October 28.

On the Transcon F, paths, the WB4OSN beacon was heard in California at least once, but otherwise nothing seems to have transpired despite several days when MUFs have been reported over 45 MHz.

Of course, the winter-season E, has been outstanding. The high point of that was December 20, when KA2RDO worked NL7OW just after 0900z (4 a.m. in New York!), topping off a night which included "multihop in multiple directions simultaneously," as well as extensive 144 MHz E. The previous day, YN1CC put in a rare appearance around 2200, working into W8-9.

G4UPS (IO80jv) is conducting tropo tests over a 350-km path with G3CCH (IO93qo) daily at 0900 on 50.175. Ted runs 25 watts into a 4-el. Jaybeam, and Johnny runs 10 watts to a 5-el. Tonna; neither has a very good location, but they find the path often usable. Ted wonders whether anyone else is conducting regular tropo tests.

One simple way to assess the DX of 1992 is to count the number of countries heard at one location, and compare it with previous years. Here at N16E/KH6, this number was 64 for 1992, 78 for 1991, 63 for 1990, and 65 for 1989. By that standard, '92 was a good year, although the first half was considerably better than the second.

NOAA SESC is predicting sunspot minimum for the first third of 1997, and Cycle 23 maximum for 2000.

Regarding the SWL report received by your editor from UO5-039-537, mentioned in the previous Bulletin, Al KL7NO forwarded a copy of a similar report he received from Vlad. It seems that Vlad says he heard KL7NO with 549 sigs while Al was in QSO with K6STI on 1988 October 27 at 2131z. This was incredible enough that, on a hunch, I checked back in QST to see if the KL7NO/K6STI QSO had been reported in the World Above 50 MHz. Yes it had, as had the N16E activity at the time Vlad claimed to have heard Hawaii. Reflecting on this and other factors, it is

now my opinion that both of these UO5-039-537 SWL reports may be fictitious, and Vlad may simply be a QST reader. No proof, but I am putting a big asterisk next to these entries in the propagation database. If anyone else has received UO5-039-537 SWL cards, I would appreciate hearing about it.

A clarification regarding the 'rumor that AA6TT/0 was heard in the U.K. on or about June 17...' item in the previous Bulletin, the original source for which was a California station. Bill writes 'This is news to me! I was not on the air on June 17th. [On] my logbook pages for the days around the 17th, I don't see anything that looks like a possible European opening.' So we can chalk this one up as another will-o-the-wisp; one thing this editor learned early about 6m propagation study is that it is necessary to get the word directly from participants before accepting amazing rumors, and even then, it may be a 'judgment call.'

More likely true is another report that Bill AA6TT/0 mentions: [In early 1992,] 'the day after a particularly good North America to Africa opening, a G station told me on 28885 that I was heard on 6m in England the day before on a beam heading to the Caribbean/Central Atlantic...' FB, and tnx Bill. N5JHV did work Malta that way last year.

Regarding the 1992 June 14 JA-to-W0 E, event, it turns out that WB0DRL had it all to himself. AA6TT/0 writes that he is certain that he did hear a JA station during that event, but he was unable to work him or copy the entire call. He had very strong E, to CA-OR-WA at the time, but was not able to use his big 8-Yagi array due to water in a connector. Larry N0LL writes that he missed it: 'I was in bed at around 0630z when NO0Y (operator of WB0DRL) worked a JA3. The MUF was still up to 70 MHz to the NE but I hadn't worked a new one in 1/2 hour so QRT to get a 6 a.m. Sunday start [this during the VHF Contest]. WB0DRL also worked a KL7. The WB0DRL QSO is a record E, distance to JA; K0CL in Colorado had 40+ QSO's several years ago.' Tnx Larry. A footnote to all this is that BY4RB was working JA1's at the exact moment of the WB0DRL QSO!

NEWS OF OCEANIA

American Samoa: This surprisingly rare country will be activated by Pat NH6QY in late February. Tnx KH6HH.

Baker and Howland: The 'definite' KH1 operation originally planned for late October has been rescheduled to begin January 26, with a duration of one week. It will definitely include 6m, probably with the N6AMG Memorial Station (kilowatt and 1.5-wl Yagi). As yet it is unclear whether Misa JG2BRI (of Palmyra and Conway fame) or Arie PA3DUU (of Clipperton fame), or both, will handle 6m operations; ten operators will be present in all. The boat charter alone is costing some \$37k; donations are welcome to the KH1 Fund, Bert Meyers WORLX, 5080 East Quincy Ave., Inglewood CO 80110. Tnx JA2DDN, DXNS, INDEXA, and ESDG via VK4BRG.

Brunei: V85XF operated for a few days in September from the QTH of V85PB, and worked into Japan. QSL to G3TXF. V85PB notes that at least two other Brunei residents have 6m stations: V85EB has an FT-690, but he has never worked anything but VK and JA. V85KV has a TS-690, but has RFI problems and severe QRM from the local Limbang E-1 TV transmitter. Tnx Peter.

Central Kiribati: None of the three rumored T31 DXpeditions took place during the past season. It is still possible that T30JH may go there in early 1993; the landing strip is in usable condition.

French Polynesia: Lasse SM0KAK and Patrick SM0NZY were briefly active here in late November, with 50 watts and a dipole. Despite some liaison on 28885, they apparently made no 6m contacts. QSL route is via SM0NZY.

Hawaiian Is: Ted NH6YK, who operated /KH4 last summer, is the latest addition to the active KH6 gang on 6m. He is currently operational from Pearl City High School on Oahu, where Ted teaches, locator BL11aj. The rig is QRP, with 1.5 watts into a 4el quad borrowed from KH6HH, but he has been successfully

working all over the Pacific. QSL to Ted Brattstrom, 2464 Halelaau Pl., Honolulu HI 96816.

Indonesia: Frank YC0UVO had planned to activate YB9 this season. Tnx JR3HED. That eastern part of Indonesia seems to be jinxed, as all previous plans to activate it on 6m seem to have fallen through. It is important because (a) it should be easier to work from western North America than is Jakarta, and (b) it occupies the rare grid Field PL.

Kingman Reef: A 9-day KH5K operation is scheduled to begin either on February 26 or March 5; reports differ. The Clipperton group is said to be involved, as is W7KNT. More details as this develops. Tnx INDEXA and HIDXA.

Marshall Islands: Sam V73SG on Kwajalein showed up on October 31 for a contact with NI6E/KH6, running an IC-575H to the 5-element Cushcraft beam left behind by V73AT.

Richard V73IO (AH6IO) and Pat V73UY (NH6UY) conducted a grid-pedition to Bikini Atoll (RK21) for a week around the beginning of October. They worked some JA's and one KH6, and were heard on scatter by NI6E/KH6 on October 2. A return trip is planned for January 18-28. QSL to their home calls. Tnx KH6HH.

Midway: WA8LLY and N6CW have inquired as to the whereabouts of Art KH4AE, for 6m QSL purposes (and your editor would like to reach Art to ascertain the details of his European DX). Scott KH4/N7TNL says that Art left Midway last February, and thinks he is now on Guam; does anyone have an address?

Northern Cook Is: A recent note from Warwick ZK1WL indicates that he is still QRV on 6m from Penrhyn. He requests the loan of an amplifier. VK3OT is offering to provide a Dick Smith solid-state brick kit. If someone else will provide a heat sink for this, it will be a done deal. He currently runs 12 watts into 5 elements, and is really the only hope for anyone needing the Northern Cooks.

Palau: W0RRY updates us on his plans: he (KC6RR), Coy N5OK (KC6OK), and Jim WV5S (KC6SS) have purchased the travel tickets already. They expect to arrive in Palau on February 9, and stay until the 27th. The 6m rig will have an IC575 into a 5-el. M⁴ beam, and an IC745 will be available on 28885 full time. They plan to run a beacon on 50.117 when out of the shack; that frequency worked very well for them last time. He notes that some QSL cards for the 1992 February KC6RR operation have yet to be mailed out. QSL to P O Box 73, Owasso OK 74055. Tnx Charlie.

Palmyra and Jarvis: The above-mentioned KH5K DXpedition will be activating Palmyra around the same dates.

Also, Pat NH6QY will be at Palmyra in late February. Tnx KH6HH.

Pitcairn: Nob JF2MBF/WK3D will be active on 6m as VR6JJ; also on this trip is VK4CPU (or is it VK3CPU?) as VR6BB. They plan to be there from mid-January until sometime in March. Nob has a 150-watt solid-state amp and 4- or 5-element beam. QSL via JF2MBF.

Solomon Islands: Mako H44/JA1OEM was active September 24 to October 8. NI6E/KH6 heard him and his beacon on 50.123 on September 25, 27, and October 2, but Mako seemed to have some receive problem. He did complete 334 contacts on 6m with all JA areas except JA8. QSL to JA1OEM. Tnx JA1VOK.

South Cook Is: Lasse SM0KAK and Patrick SM0NZY were here in early December, signing ZK1AZY, with 50 watts and a dipole. Apparently they made no 6m contacts here. QSL route is via SM0NZY.

Tokelau Is: QSL cards for Kerry ZL2TPY's operation here last year as ZK3TPY are available from JA1VOK with SASE only. Tnx Hat.

Tonga: Lasse SM0KAK and Patrick SM0NZY were active here in mid-December as A35ZY, with 50 watts and a dipole. This was the most successful stop on their South Pacific tour, with many hours of Es into New Zealand. QSL route is via SM0NZY.

Western Samoa: Moli 5W1MM in Apia was quite active on 6m evenings around October. No further details, but he appears to be a resident.

Lasse SM0KAK and Patrick SM0NZY were active here in late December as 5W1ZY, running 50 watts into a dipole. It is unknown whether they made any 6m contacts here. QSL route is via SM0NZY.

QSL cards for Kerry ZL2TPY's operation here last year as 5W1KF are available from JA1VOK with SASE only. Tnx Hat.

Willis Island: VK9WW was QRV for a week in mid-October, by VK9NS, VK9NL, and another op. They operated a breakable beacon on 50.120. The only reports of 6m contacts were into Japan on October 12 and 16, KH6HH on October 17, and VK2QF on October 18. They did have some problems with an open antenna connection, causing them to miss the good propagation of October 15. Tnx INDEXA and HIDXA.

Marshall Islands: Sam V73SG on Kwajalein showed up on October 31 for a contact with NI6E/KH6.

NEWS OF ASIA

Azerbaijan: UA3PW visited UD6DX last summer and donated his spare 6m equipment. This is a home brew 10-watt transceiver and a vertical. UD6DX is in square LN50. Tnx Six News.

Asiatic Russia: Another one-day special from UW0MF/EK0LJA was supposed to occur October 19 at 00-03z; nothing heard. Tnx JH0HQF. QSL both to Michael Filippov, Box 20, 690021 Vladivostok, Russia. Tnx JR3HED.

Bangladesh: S21ZE was 'suddenly' activated by JA1UT, G3NOM, and others on October 8 to 16. They used an FT-655 and 6el beam, on 50.115/125. In order to get a license, it was billed as a Propagation Test, rather than an amateur radio DXpedition. They had a ton of propagation to Japan (all areas worked except maybe JA8), but we know of only 7 stations worked outside of Japan: VK6IQ, VK8RH, VK8ZMA, N7ET/DU7, P29CW, BZ4SAB, and BV2DP. QSL to JA1UT. Tnx JA1VOK et al.

China: Considerable activity was reported here in August. BY4RSA, BY4SBP, and BY4RB (evidently sharing a rig) were noted on 50.188 and 50.110 around 1300z on August 10. BY4RB was also spotted on several other dates. Then on August 22 around 0900z, BZ4SBV and BZ4SZ were reported on about 50.161. The BZ4SBV QSL route was given as P.O. Box 51, Suzhou, China. Tnx JA1VOK. VK3OT reported working BZ4SBV and BZ4SBN on December 15; possibly they were operating from the BZ4SAA club station. Tnx Steve.

China has decided to license individual operators, beginning 1992 December 22. They will have prefixes BA, BD, and BT. Tnx HCJB-HRT. Hopefully this will impact 6m!

Hong Kong: The VS6 prefix is being changed to VR2, a prefix that was used in Fiji prior to 1971. The VS6SIX beacon remains active without change as yet, and it has been heard recently in Brazil, Azores, Hawaii, Kiribati, etc., but all live operators seem to have vanished.

Israel: From 1992 August 25, the Ministry of Communications has opened the 6m band to all Class B (codeless?) operators here; they can transmit 50.000-150 (another report says 100-130), while Class A are now allowed 50.000-200. This means that a beacon is now also possible. Baruch 4Z4TT in KM72 is now QRV and has made contacts, running 25 watts to 3 elements. QSL via bureau or direct to Baruch Sheinberg, 78, King George St. (another source says King Cross St.), Tel Aviv 64338, Israel. Also, Alex 4X1MH in KM72It is reported active. QSL to Dr. Alex Vilensky, P O Box 6342, Haifa, Israel. Tnx 4X4IF via G4UPS and 9H5EE.

Kampuchea: Ross VK3TYN is now active from Phnom Penh (OK21). At first he signed XU3TYN, then changed to XU0UN. He will be there until August, running an IC726 into a dipole, soon to be augmented by a Mirage 150-watt brick, supply, courtesy of VK3OT, who will be the QSL manager. Ross is hoping to improve his antenna, and he has been heard on 28885. Tnx Steve. Eric F1JKK is still planning to activate 6m from XU soon. Tnx 9H5EE.

Kazakhstan: Mike UL7GCC was using the callsign 4L2FA during late 1992. He expects Kazakhstan to receive its own prefix in 1993; 4L2 will then be allocated to the Republic of Georgia. Tnx G4UPS. Mike asks that people only send him \$ for return postage, as IRCs are useful only for filling up the waste bin in Alma Ata. Tnx Six News.

Kuwait: The mystery of 9K2ZC, who worked many Europeans last summer, is now solved by a QSL card received by Arne SM7AED. The operator is Tom KI0K, and QSLs may be sent direct to Thomas A. Schrage, American Embassy, Kuwait, NLO, Unit 69000 Box 13, APO AE 09880-9000 U.S.A. Or try the Kuwait bureau, KARS, P O Box 5240, 13053 Safat Kuwait. Tnx G4UPS.

Lebanon: An HL-166V 160-watt amp is now in the hands of Samir OD5SK, donated by JA6TEW and shipped by JA1VOK. Tnx WVHFN. Also, Samir now has a 5-element Yagi. Tnx G4UPS.

Nepal: Kiyoko NH6RT, who has activated 6m from ZK2, ZK3, 5W1, T30, etc., plans to be in Nepal for the next 2-3 years, and hopes to obtain a license. Tnx HCJB-HRT.

South Korea: Louis HL9UH (ex-KG6UH/DU1) is now active on 6m here, working into VK and JA. Mail goes to Capt. L. N. Ancaux, USNR, COMPLEACT-Chinhae, PSC 479 Box 82, FPO AP 96269-1100.

Taiwan: Randson BV2DQ states that, while he and Robert BV2DP both use an IC-726, they are not sharing a single rig as had been earlier assumed. BV2DQ's IC-726 now feeds a 6-element beam atop a 10m tower, and BV2DP's IC-726 still feeds a vee-shaped dipole. Tnx P29CW. Both stations worked PY5CC in early November.

Thailand: About 0830z on some date in mid-November, JA3EGE reportedly worked HS5AC on 6m. The QSL route is via HS1HSJ. More details later, hopefully. Tnx VK3OT.

West Malaysia: Lasse SM0KAK and Patrick SM0NZY are hoping to be active on 6m here sometime in February after their South Pacific tour. It seems they will be staying with Mart 9M2BV (SM0ERR) who is here for a year or more, and he also is hoping to be able to get on 6m at some point.

NEWS OF NORTH AMERICA

Anguilla: N6CW was QRV here as VP2ECW for a week in late November, with 150 watts into 5 elements. At first, all he had was South Americans and the ZD8VHF beacon, but then on November 23 and 24, he worked large portions of the U.S. QSL to N6CW. Tnx Terry.

Aves Island: Most of the YX0AI QSL cards apparently have been mailed out, but Fred W5FF has not received one; any tips?

Bahamas: Bill KM1E will be active here again from mid-December until February 1, then again later in the winter. He now has a Bahamian callsign C6AGN, and QSLs should now be directed via KA1DIG.

Barbados: Dr. Rick Dorsch NE8Z/HC1MD, well remembered for his HC8 activity in Cycle 21, planned to operate as 8P9- from October 26 to November 3, with a TS-680 and 3el beam. No reports have been received of anyone hearing him, however. QSL to K8LJG. Tnx Rick.

Belize: KI6IM activated V31VB from October 18 to 30, using an FT-650 and Yagi, but no reports have been received. QSL to Victor Burns, 464 Cole Ranch Rd., Oliverhain, CA 92024.

Canada: N0LL adds a couple of details regarding his June 14 QSO with VE8KM: it was at 0534z, and the VE8 called Larry with a 5x5 signal; he said he was running 15 watts and to QSL via the VE8 bureau. Tnx Larry.

Deseccho Is: KW2P/KP5 was heard on HF stating that this December DXpedition did not have 6m gear. Just in case, QSL's go via Randy Rowe, P O Box 891 Desoto TX 75123.

Guadeloupe: Jim W6JKV/FG was active here October 23 to November 8, with the usual giant Yagi. He had numerous openings to South America, but none to North America; his one U.S. contact was with WA4NJP via E-M-E. He also heard K6QXY via E-M-E on four occasions, but did not complete the contact.

W5OZI received a card for his June contact with Frantz FG3FR. His rig is shown as an IC-551 into a 5-element TET beam, and his locator as FK96fg. The mail address is Monsieur Frantz Selbonne, Residence Merosier-Narbal, Bat. J2 No. 21 - Belcourt, F 97122 Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe, Antilles Francaises. Tnx Pat, and congrats.

FG/KG7XE was supposedly active here October 28-November 3, but no reports have been received. Operators were JR1LZK, JI1NJC, and JASVBH. QSL via JI1NJC, P O Box 3, Naka, Ibaraki 311-01, Japan. Tnx JA1VOK.

Guantanamo Bay: Greg KG4CB was spotted on 28885 recently, saying he would activate the club station; he stated that he found the 6m beam lying on the roof.

Guatemala: Juan TG9AJR has been showing up on 28885 frequently, but he reports that his 6m Yagi was stolen, so he is using a ground-plane vertical or his HF triband beam. W5OZI is sending him some replacement 6146s for his Swan 250.

Jamaica: Don 6Y5DA (ex-VK2DDR, ZL1TLN, ZF1DA) has been given a mint-condition KLM 661 transceiver, and what appears to be a KLM 11-el LP-Y beam, but neither has any documentation whatsoever. Don has written to KLM, but received no answer. Don would be happy to modify the beam into a 5-el Yagi or whatever, but lacks references. He is retired and quite interested in 6m, so could really help put 6Y5 on the 6m map. Can any reader help Don with documentation for these items? If so, please write him: Donald G. Ashdown, 18 Villa Road, Mandeville, Jamaica.

Mexico: On November 20-22 XE2HWB and friends operated XF1SI from Isla San Ignacio (DL55), off the Sinaloa coast in the Gulf of California. On 6m they worked three ZLs. They have a tentative plan to activate Isla Guadalupe (DL08-09) off the west coast of Baja, perhaps in March. Tnx Bernardo.

Navassa: Randy Rowe and friends are planning a KP1 operation for March 26 to April 3. Tnx INDEXA.

Puerto Rico: Does anyone know the whereabouts of Tim KP4BZ, or the beacon he was planning to operate? He is not responding to mail sent to Marinas Tower 1 Ap. 2802, Fajardo PR 00738.

St. Pierre et Miquelon: Beginning 1993 January 1, Ron FP/VE1KM is expected to operate as FP4EK, and his QSL manager is now K1RH. Tnx VE3KKL. Bob K6QXY is offering the 'small bulletproof brick' amplifier (previously used by V73AT) for loan to Ron, if he has a suitable power supply, and if someone can get word to him.

Turks and Caicos: WA3HMK activated Provo Island from December 8 to 14, including 6m and 2m E-M-E. It is unknown whether he made any 6m contacts.

United States: Tim ex-V73AT is now QRV on all bands as N2PC/0 in Colorado, running 400 watts on 6m into a Yagi up 40 feet. Anyone wishing to contact Tim can reach him at 10225 Pine Park Trail, Colorado Springs, CO 80908.

NEWS OF SOUTH AMERICA

Aruba: George P43FM is back here for the winter, until March or April. He has an IC575H into 5 elements. QSL to his home call sign PA0FM. Tnx G4UPS.

Fernando de Noronha: PY0F/PY5CC was active here in late October. He worked CX, ZP, PY, 9Y4, FG, TU4, and JR6. He plans a return trip in March, for about 20 days. Tnx Peter.

Netherlands Antilles: Seppo PJ2/OH1VR was active here in late November, running a 690 into 5 elements. QSL via OH1VR. Tnx N5JHV and G4UPS.

Chet PJ9EE was heard on HF saying he has packed away all his 6m gear and taken down the 6m antenna until the next sunspot maximum arrives (so how will he know when it does?). Tnx G4UPS.

Paraguay: Several new stations are active on 6m this past season. Luis ZP5JCY in Asuncion (GG14) was worked in Europe in October and was loud in Hawaii on November 27, and he has also been on 28885. QSL to Ing. Luis Kemper, P. O. Box 416, Asuncion, Paraguay. PY0F/PY5CC worked ZP5ZR, ZP5YW, and ZP5HSB in October. JA/JR6 stations worked ZP5YV, ZP5YW, ZP5ZR, and ZP5HSB on November 1. Tnx PY5CC, G4UPS, and WVHFN.

Doug ZP6CW, now back in the U.S. as N4PW, has left all his 6m gear in Paraguay, on loan to the Radio Club Paraguayo; indeed, some of the above stations may have been using it. Anyone still needing a ZP6XDW or ZP6CW QSL may write to Mr. D. J. Woolley at P O Box 688, Culpeper VA 22702.

San Felix: John XQ0X is supposedly active again for the next few months. The previous rig has been returned to California; in its place a TS-690 has been purchased by CE3ESS and will be dedicated exclusively to 6m! XQ3SIX's 6-element 6m beam remains on the island. A separate TS-450 will be used on HF. Tnx Kevin and W6YLZ.

Trindade: PY0TSN was QRV on 6m with 20 watts into a vertical until early December. PY5CC worked him from Fernando de Noronha on October 28, and W6JKV/FG and CU1EZ also worked this rarity. QSL to PY3ASN. Tnx Peter.

Trinidad & Tobago: Frank 9Y4VU now has an IC-551, so he will now be able to operate 6m SSB for the first time, not just CW. QSL via W3EVW. Tnx G4UPS.

NEWS OF ANTARCTICA

Antarctica: VK0AQ sailed November 18 for Casey Station, grid OC53 (straight south of Perth). The trip takes about 10 days, and then he will be QRV for 14 months. The 6m rig will be an IC505 and 80-watt amp into a 3-element Yagi, and there will be liaison on 28885. This was arranged by VK3OT, who will also be the QSL manager. Tnx Steve.

Peter I Island: Per W1AW's DX bulletin October 9, Tony WA4JQS, who participated in the VP8SSI event last year, says an operation here may be in the works a couple of years from now.

NEWS OF EUROPE

Albania: A surprise operation as ZA1BK took place in September by Kan JA1BK. Apparently he was on 6m only on Sept. 8, when he worked as far as England. QSL via JA1HGY. Tnx G4UPS.

Balearic Is: Five EA6's are listed on G4UPS's compilation of the 82 EA's with permits from the Spanish PTT: EA6ET, EA6FB, EA6IF, EA6SA, and EA6VQ. Of these, 3 have been worked/reported: Jose EH6FB in JM08, Jose EH6ET in JM19hp, and Gabriel EH6VQ in JM19mp. Also, Gus EH3CCK/6 and EH3CBH/6 have been reported active in JM19in. Tnx Ted and 9H5EE.

Bosnia: Fudo 4N4VO showed up from this war zone during August and September, working many Europeans via E. His QTH is Basanski (JN74wt), 10 km from the Croatian border. When asked for QSL info, he replied, "It's a waste of time direct; we will have to wait until the war is over; try the bureau." He does not have a QSL manager. Tnx Six News.

Croatia: Zlatko 9A3AQ (ex-YT2AQ) in JN75 is not in the callbook. QSL to P O Box 673, 41001 Zagreb, Rep. of Croatia. Tnx 9H5EE.

Jan Mayen: The first 6m QSO's from JX took place October 13, between JX3EX and SM3JGG. JX3EX and JX7DFA are both active until April. QSLs for JX3EX go via LA5NM, and for JX7DFA go via LA7DFA. Tnx LA9ZV and SM7AED via G4UPS, 9H5EE, and VE3KKL.

Market Reef: OJ0/OH0AF were reportedly active from October 6 to 13. IK8DYD reported working them on 6m October 7. QSL: SSB via OH1EH; CW via OH1NOA. Tnx 9H5EE.

Norway: The first European 6m repeater LA5UR commenced operation in September. The callign is LA5UR, and the frequencies are 51.200 and 51.800 FM. A one-year experimental license has been issued on a very strict non-interference basis. Tnx G4UPS.

Romania: YO4BZC is now QRV on 6m. QSL via Franco IK8DYD. Also, Emil YO7VJ (normally in KN14vg) was active during September from KN13wt. Tnx 9H5EE.

Slovenia: The new S5 prefix took effect on October 24, and the next day Bojan S57AC (ex-YU3OV) in JN76tn was worked in Malta. Other new calligns active on 6m include Drago S51ZV (ex-YU3ZV), Drago S53ZW (ex-YU3ZW), S57CC (ex-YU3GO), and S59UN (also ex-YU3ZV?). Tnx 9H5EE and G4UPS.

Spain: Thanks to G4UPS for the following complete list of the 74 Spanish stations that have received 6m permits from the Spanish PTT. Ted and 9H5EE both sent lists of EH stations actually worked or reported, and I have merged these below. Asterisks show four stations worked or reported but apparently not on the PTT list; do not jump to conclusions, as typos may account for these. Ted notes that several inaccurate lists have appeared in print recently, so beware. Also, note that many EHs are having new QSLs printed up with their new prefix, so be patient. First, the stations that are reportedly active already:

IM66: EH7UH, EH7CZR
IM67: EH7AH, EH7ERS, EH7ESB
IM86: EH7AG
IM87: EH7AJ, EH7BIH
IM97: EH5CHT
IM99: EH5CJ, EH5OE
IN52: EH1KV
IN63: EH1BLF*
IN73: EH1DDU
IN81: EH4CGN/1 (or IN82?)
IN82: EH1BFZ/P, EH1DVY/P, EH1EH, EH2BLR, EH2US*
IN83: EH2JG
IN91: EH2AGZ
IN92: EH2LU
IN93: EH2BUF
JM08: EH5DY
JN00: EH3KU
JN01: EH3's BTZ, DIH, DZG, ECE, EDU, EHQ, KE*, LL, UM
JN11: EH3's ADQ*, ADW, AQJ, BKZ, CHN, DXU, IH, MD
JN12: EH3DUW

stations licensed but not yet reported (these will, of course, be using EH prefixes if they do get on 6m):

EA1's ANE, AST, BCB, BLA, CON, DKV, EBJ, GG, LQ, QJ, TA, YV
EA3's AIR, ATJ, CUU, DVR, JA, XO
EA4's BG, CAV, CFE, ED, LH
EA5's BZS
EA7's BVD, DBP, DUW, DZI, EHE, FHS, FTH, JS

Fernando EH3KU in JN00jv is not okay in the callbook. QSL via P O Box 69, 8025 Barcelona, Spain. Tnx G4UPS and 9H5EE for all this Spanish information.

NEWS OF AFRICA

Angola: D2EL reportedly will not be able to get on 6m, as no permission was granted to him. Tnx 9H5EE.

Ascension: Jef ZD8SA (II22) is active here until 1994 June. He made his first few 6m contacts on September 24, including Malta. At the moment, his antenna is fixed toward the U.K., pending installation of a rotor, and he has a problem with his CW output power. QSL to P O Box 2, Ascension Island, U.K. Tnx 9H5EE.

Steve ZD8LII (II22) was active again on October 8, also working into Malta. He is active only on CW now. Tnx 9H5EE.

Botswana: Dave A22MN (ex-K8MN, J52US, 9L1US) in KG25 was worked in Malta on October 8, running 150 watts into a 5-el.

M2 Yagi at 12m height. QSL to K. S. Scheper (WA8JOC), 5875 Cedaridge Dr., Cincinnati OH 45247. Tnx 9H5EE.

Canary Is: Only one EA8 appears on the G4UPS compilation of 82 Spanish PTT 6m licensees: Leo EA8ACW in IL28gc (or IL18? -reports differ), and he has been worked in Malta. Tnx Ted and 9H5EE.

Ceuta and Melilla: Two EA9's appear on G4UPS's compilation of the 82 Spanish PTT 6m licensees: Peter EA9IB and Manolo EA9MH. Both have been reported active (as EH9IB and EH9MH) from Melilla (IM85ng). Tnx Ted and 9H5EE.

Chagos: Dale VQ9QM is on 6m, monitoring 50.110 when he is in the shack. He worked into JA6/JR6 on October 8 around 1500z. QSL via Dale's home callsign: H. D. Strieter (W4QM), 928 Trinidad St, Cocoa Beach FL 32931. Tnx G4UPS and WVHFN.

Guinea: Marcel 3X0HNU in U39 was worked in the Mediterranean area on September 14, November 11, and November 14, and into Jersey on September 23. QSL to Antoine Baldeck (F6FNU), P O Box 14, F-91291 Arpajon Cedex, France. Tnx 9H5EE, G4UPS, and GJ4ICD.

Ivory Coast: Jean Claude TU4DH (U771q) is back from holidays, and QRV again after some repairs to his 6m linear. QSL via F3HT. Tnx 9H5EE.

Kenya: ZS6WB recently had a 80m QSO with Paul 5Z4FO and discovered that Paul has a TS680 but no 6m permit. He does listen on 6m and has heard many stations in Europe and Africa. Kenya should be well situated for global propagation, and Paul would like to press his administration for a 6m permit, but has little information to give them. If anyone can assist him by sending a brief history of 6m from your country and the numbers of stations active, etc., it would help him present his case. Write to Paul Wyse, P O Box 44456, Nairobi, Kenya. Tnx Six News.

Madagascar: George 5R8AB intends to build a 6m converter for use with his TS930S. Tnx SM7AED via G4UPS, who asks if anyone has regular contact with George on HF?

Mozambique: C9RJJ, an American, is here for two years. ZS6WB is investigating the possibility of getting him onto 6m.

Namibia: Carsten V50CO is a newcomer on 6m, running an IC726 into a ground plane. QSL to P O Box 21988, Windhoek, Namibia. Tnx 9H5EE.

Seychelles: JA1ELY and JA1IDY planned activity here October 22-26, but no reports have been received. The rig was a TS690S and 5el Yagi. Tnx JA1VOK.

South Africa: ZS50EA was activated on 6m by Derek ZR6ALA from Pretoria (KG44fd) on October 25. This is a special callsign commemorating 50 years since the battle of El Alamein. QSL via Malcom ZR6MDK. Tnx 9H5EE.

Swaziland: Three 3DA0/Gs in KF53 were active here in mid-October, including 6m. 6m QSL's go via Chris Henderson (G4FAM), Bellapais, Kelsey Lane, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3NF, U.K. Tnx 9H5EE and G4UPS.

Zambia: Peter 9J2HN is active again with his 100w into 4el. QSL to Katsuhide Kawase (JH8BKL), 9-Shinkai, Teshio, Hokkaido 098-33, Japan. Peter also notes that the rig of 9J2MK was left with 9J2KY. Tnx 9H5EE.

Zimbabwe: An HL-66V 60-watt amp was donated to Z23JO by JA6IDJ this summer. Tnx WVHFN.

BEACON NEWS

Alaska: With the high-latitude F2 season now ready to begin, there are no active 6m beacons in Alaska, sadly. NL7OW reports that KL7SZ is constructing a beacon, and the AL7C machine awaits reactivation. Tnx Tom.

Argentina: Another new beacon was heard by N16E/KH6 on September 22 and on numerous occasions in October. On 50.0815, it sends, "BEACON DE LU3EMK PWR 1W PSE QSL 73 AR," followed by two dots and a long dash. It seems to get out well for its power; the QTH is GF05 and the operator is Horacio LU3EMK. The FSK LU1DMA/b continues active. The other two recently-reported new beacons, LU2MFO/b and LU8DCH/b, have vanished, as has the old LU1MA/b.

Australia: 50.088 has been allocated for Townsville (northern VK4) by the WIA. Tnx VK4BRG.

Brazil: One machine that is often overlooked is the PY5EJ "responder." It transmits with tone-modulated amplitude modulation; the carrier measures 50.2801, with an ident tone on 50.2812, and there are weaker ident spurs on either side. It waits in receive mode until an incoming signal (any mode) is detected within a few kilohertz of 50.280, then switches to transmit and sends the following message: 'DE PY5EJ RESPONDER DE PY5EJ 10W GP K.' It seems to get out about as well as PY2AA/b, which is to say quite well. The location is 40 km from Curitiba in Parana state.

Canada: The new northernmost beacon outside of Europe is VE2TWO in Radisson, Quebec (FO13). It runs 18 watts of CW on 50.089 into a horizontal folded dipole. It runs 24 hours/day with the message 'VVV DE VE2TWO/BCN FO13 QSL VIA VE2FTR' followed by a string of dots. At the same site is a new ten-meter beacon with 6 watts into a sloping dipole on 28.2184, which is being heard well here in Hawaii. Reports go to Rene Barbeau, CP 779, Evain, QC, JO2 1YO, Canada. Tnx KA3B. VE1MQ now runs his beacon with 5 watts into an indoor halo, still on 50.073. Tnx Mike.

VE3FIT notes that the VE3UBL/b antenna (see last issue) is indeed a turnstile. Tnx Ken.

Cayman Islands: OH1ZAA is working on a beacon, to sign ZF2KZ on 50.016 MHz in EK99hg, with 60 watts of F1A modulation. More details later. Tnx Jan via Six News.

Denmark: A new beacon, OZ6VHF, is being reported since November 8 by European DXers. The frequency is 50.054, with a power of 25 watts into a turnstile. The message includes the locator JO57ei, and a series of dots. Tnx G4UPS and LA9ZV. The OZ7IGY beacon on 50.021 is back on the air again. Tnx G4UPS.

Ecuador: HC2FG/b has been heard on two frequencies recently. On October 19 it was on 50.0899, while four days earlier it was on its normal 50.0920. It is probably not on the air very much anymore.

Finland: OH9SIX, a new beacon in Pirttikoski, northern Finland (KP36oi), became operational in mid-August and is being heard in Europe. It is on 50.066 or .067, with 50 watts to stacked crossed dipoles. It radiates over sloping ground (but which direction?). This might be a best-bet beacon for Alaskans and others in North America to listen for over the pole. Tnx Six News and G4UPS. OH1SIX on 50.025 in KP11qu has been upgraded with a new omni stack of 8 dipoles. Tnx Six News.

Ivory Coast: A new beacon, TU2VHF on 50.094, was heard in Europe on October 31. G4UPS gives the locator as EJ76am (must be U76am?), the same as that of TU2OJ, so he speculates that Gerard is the operator. No further details yet. Tnx Ted. This is good news for everyone, not least the VK4's who miss the old 9L1 beacon as a long-path band opener.

Jan Mayen: JX7DFA is a new, breakable, beacon on 50.079, with 10 watts. The initial antenna, an 80-meter dipole, may have already been replaced with a 3-element beam. Tnx G4UPS, WVHFN, and VE3KKL.

Japan: A new beacon, JH0ZPI, is listed on 50.059 in PM96, with 10 watts, 24 hours/day. Tnx JR3HED. Nobody seems to be hearing it; JA1VOK says it may not be active yet, or not 24 hours; possibly weekends only. Tnx Hat.

Johnston Atoll: The new FM broadcast station here, running 0.3 watts, is on the air, but initial problems with the KH3AF beacon have been resolved. Tnx KH6HH. Late word from Richard KH3AF reports antenna problems, so the beacon is down again.

Lebanon: In late November, Samir OD5SK stated to G4UPS that the OD5SIX beacon has arrived in good condition and is on the air. It is situated in Tripoli (KM75), and runs 10 watts on 50.078. Samir said that he will eventually make improvements to the antenna. Tnx Ted.

Malawi: A new beacon is reportedly active here, 7Q7SIX on 50.003. No further details. Tnx VE3KKL.

Marshall Islands: V73AT/b was taken off the air soon after Tim's departure in August, due to frequency instability and QRM. When Richard AH6IO passed through Kwajalein in October, he retrieved it and brought it back to Honolulu for repairs and installation of a new ID PROM with the callsign V73AX. Tnx KH6HH. It was then shipped back to Kwaj and began to be received in Hawaii on December 20, on the new, slightly higher frequency of 50.0375.

Mexico: On November 28, N6XQ and W9DHH installed the second Baja beacon at a coastal site near San Quintin (DM10), some 150 miles south of San Diego. The callsign is XE2UZL (the old call of the late Walt Hicks), transmitting in CW mode on 50.028 nominal. Running on 100% photovoltaic power, it adjusts its power level, up to 25 watts, depending on the state of battery charge. The antenna is a delta loop beaming east-west, which may be upgraded later. It has been heard well in Hawaii and New Zealand; I measure it on 50.0281-.0282. The high-speed message text is 'I2 XE2UZL/B DM10 XE2UZL/B DM10 XE2UZL/B (short dash)' then repeat. Tnx Jack and Peter, very much.

The other Baja machine, XE2HWP, is still running 10 watts, but a new 75-watt transmitter is on hand and may be activated at any time; the frequency and message will be unchanged. Tnx Bernardo and N6XQ.

Netherlands: Remco PA3FYM is running an intermittent beacon on 50.0525 MHz, with 9 watts into a N/S dipole at 45m ASL, locator JO22nc. Radiation is a southerly direction is favored; in the future a turnstile antenna will be installed and repositioned to insure omnidirectional radiation. It operates atop his research lab at the Utrecht University and is only active when Remco is present, as unmanned stations are not allowed in the Netherlands. This is approximately 0730-1530z, weekdays only. The CW message is "PA3FYM IN JO22" repeated 4 times, followed by 6 bursts then "PSE QSL" and 6 more bursts. Reports are welcomed via the regular channels or via E-mail besten@chem.ruu.nl or BITNET Besten@hutruu54. Tnx Six News.

Netherlands Antilles: The PJ2SIX beacon, according to plans, should now be up and running on 50.004 MHz in Curacao (FK52kg). It runs 22 watts CW to a stacked 4-dipole omni array on a tower at Coral Cliff. The keeper is PJ2BR. Tnx OH1ZAA via Six News.

Ogasawara: JR3HED shows a JD1ADP/b in QL17 on 50.012, message "V V V DE JD1ADP." Tnx Jun; nobody is reporting it, so it may be intermittent (at best).

Paraguay: Per a recent QSO with ZP5JCY, the ZP5AA machine is off the air until early this year, pending its relocation back to the original hilltop site near Caacupe. ZP6CW says it was still on the air as of September 28, but we KH6's haven't heard it since May, and it is missed!

Slovenia: The 4N3SIX machine is now S55ZRS, still on 50.015 (sometimes listed on 50.016). The message is now 'S55ZRS SLOVENIJA JN76HD.' Tnx G4UPS, VE3KKL, and WVHFN.

South Africa: ZS6SIX/b is on the air on 50.950 (!) in KG33xx with 10 watts into a 3-element Yagi, and its keeper is ZS6YA. Tnx WVHFN and Six News.

Sweden: An update form for SK6SIX/b has been received by KA3B. Located at Hono Goteborg (JO57), it operates 24 hours/day on 50.080. It still alternates between 1 watt and 10 watts;

the antenna is now a dipole, 38 meters high. The home brew CW transmitter sends 'SK6SIX/1W' alternated with 'SK6SIX/10W.' Reports go to Lars Svensson SM6CET, Vast-a Vagen 106, 430 91 Hono, Sweden. Tnx Harry.

United States: A new beacon on Tolly Point, Bay Ridge, near Annapolis, Maryland (FM18) is KL7GLK. The frequency is about 50.076 crystal-controlled; operator Larry Jack says it seems to drift 300 Hz down when hot, and 300 Hz up when cold. The home brew transmitter runs 4 watts input to a turnstile antenna up 35 feet, but Larry N4VA says it is usually not audible at about 30 miles, and speculates that it runs much less than 4 watts. Tnx N4VA via KA3B.

Several U.S. stations, including K1JRW, have told G4UPS that the K1NFE beacon (50.061) was damaged by lightning last summer, is QRT, and is not expected to be reactivated. Tnx Ted.

Venezuela: YV4AB/b was reported silent for awhile by PY5CC, but it is back on now. Has anyone heard YV5ZZ/b lately?

Western Kiribati: T30JH has reserved the callsign T30DX for possible future use on a 6m beacon. If he relocates to a larger property on the island as hoped, this beacon may become a reality. Tnx Jack.

INDICATOR NOTES

Tom NL7OW reports that the 46.90 MHz meteor-burst transmitter in Alaska is currently off the air (at least one transmitter in Oregon or Washington on 46.90 is still on, however). Tom says that 47.04 MHz NBFM highway-maintenance is 'our highest and most active indicator here in south-central Alaska.' Its callsign is KDZ586, per N5JHV. Another active Anchorage frequency is 43.68 MHz.

In Central and South America, a few FM broadcast transmitter links operate below 50 MHz, and are especially useful for MUF checking due to their long hours and high power. Gord VE3KKL recently discovered one on 45.475 MHz, carrying play-by-play sports with a British accent; the location is possibly Jamaica. Another that has been heard lately in Texas and Hawaii is the Radio Continental outlet in Bogota, Colombia on 49.575, which seems to have high power. The three long-known STLs in South America are 45.70 Colombia, 47.90 Chile, and 48.63 Argentina.

Another Source of Geophysical Data

The DK0WCY beacon, a club station operated by DARC on the 30-meter band, is monitored by many 6m operators for an aurora indication. In addition to auroral alerts, it is now broadcasting some interesting current geophysical information. It operates on 10.144 MHz with 30 watts output into a triangular horizontal loop at 6m height. It is located in JO44vq, about 20 km south of the Danish border. Here is the message format:

when no aurora is observed: "DK0WCY _____"

when aurora is observed: "DK0WCY -----
AURORA"

when strong aurora is observed: "DK0WCY -----
STRONG AURORA"

these alerts are based on the presence of VHF auroral propagation in northern Germany. A limited number of amateurs can control this.

then, about every 10 minutes (may be changed to 5 minutes), a detailed message is transmitted. Here is an example of the format:

"INFO 10 MAY 1056Z = WARNING STRONG PROTON
EVENT, STRONG POLAR CAP ABSORPTION = R 82 =
FLUX 124 = AK BOULDER 26 = FORECAST SUNACT
LOW TO MODERATE = MAGFIELD STRONG STORM =
SWF LOW TO MODERATE = HF CONDS MODERATE TO
BAD + "

Explanation: date and time refer to the last update of the data from which the transmitted data are extracted. WARNING is optional. R is yesterday's relative sunspot number, and FLUX is yesterday's Penticton 2800 MHz solar flux. AK BOULDER is yesterday's index of geomagnetic activity at Boulder. SUNACT is the predicted level of solar activity [at X-ray wavelengths?]. MAGFIELD is the predicted state of the geomagnetic field. SWF is the expected probability of shortwave fadeout (the Mogel-Dellinger effect). HF CONDS is the predicted quality of HF propagation. NA, if present, means data not available (mainly on weekends). Nothing is included regarding solar activity in the short ultraviolet wavelengths, unfortunately.

The source of these data is the "Forschungsinstitut F134" (research institute) of the Deutsche Bundespost at Darmstadt. The data are updated into the German BTX-system (view-data system), and then up to 3 times daily they are transferred automatically via landline to the computer at DK0WCY, where a selection of them is transmitted via CW. There is currently only one daily update on DK0WCY, in the morning. Comments/reports go to Ulrich Mueller (DK4VW), Kreutzacker 13, D-3550 Marburg, Germany or via BBS DB0SIF. QSL via DK4LI/DARC. Tnx DK4VW via G4UPS.

EQUIPMENT NOTES

Walt N8PVT notes that he's seeing an increase in the number of IC-551's for sale in the Ham Trader Yellow Sheets. A year ago they had been snapped up fast as soon as advertised; the IC-551 is a great value compared to the current generation of rigs. Those who have been unable to dedicate a receiver to monitoring 6m continuously because their only rig is an all-bander might consider this opportunity.

DXCC NOTES

The ARRL DX Advisory Committee recently voted to recommend the following additions to the DXCC countries list: Croatia (9A, was YU2) starting 1991 June 26; Slovenia (S5, was YU3) starting 1991 June 26; Bosnia-Herzegovina (YU4) starting 1991 October 15; and Macedonia (YU5) starting 1991 September 8. They recommend that the entity of Yugoslavia remains on the list, composed of Serbia (YU1), Montenegro (YU6), Vojvodina (YU7), and Kosovo (YU8). Accordingly, beginning with this issue, I am listing 9A, S5, YU4, and YU5 items under their new DXCC country names.

The DXAC voted against a proposal that stations aboard docked ships be counted for DXCC. Apparently some opposition came from amateurs who misconstrued this as a suggestion that boats in international waters should be accepted. Thankfully, we have VUCC and Fields as tidy alternatives to the endless games involved with Countries Lists; any licensed shipboard station is acceptable for its grid locator, whether at sea, docked, or sunk!

The horrendous 8-month DXCC processing backlog will hopefully be reduced in the near future, as ARRL has approved funding for several temporary part-time assistants.

A U.S. reader, who modestly requests anonymity, writes that it took him just 5 years (1987-92) to complete 6m DXCC, and wonders how many others have done this in a single solar cycle. I believe numerous Europeans have done so, plus ZP6CW, PY5CC, and your editor. Has anyone else?

Problems in Hawaii: As many of you know, I am living far from the commercial power mains, primarily to ensure a quiet noise floor in the receivers. Up until last July, I was getting most of my power from photovoltaic arrays, but then a well-placed lightning bolt wiped out half of those, and I had to rely more on a small gas-powered alternator to charge the batteries. This issue was coming together 6 weeks ago, when the backup generator suffered a catastrophic failure. During the month of December, this island was under an almost perpetual cloud cover, and life ground to a halt. At last, in January, the Sun is shining again, sufficiently to run this laptop PC. I apologize to the readers for the long delay since the last Bulletin. Also, I am having to forego transmitting on 28885 (and, to a lesser extent, 6m itself) for the foreseeable future.

Aloha de Shel

POSTSCRIPT BY K6FV

Shel has not sent me anything since the August 31 issue. Six weeks ago was around December 1. You may wonder, why was nothing sent during September, October, and November? Perhaps we should have been tipped off by page 8 of the last year's second issue: "As alluded to in 'Changes ... this Bulletin is part of a suite of activities benefiting the hobby. Your editor puts in 100+ hours/week on these activities, to the detriment of personal health and prosperity. If rigid Bulletin punctuality is essential to you, you should probably cancel your subscription, and your remaining money will be refunded."

No refunds will be forthcoming from Shel or from me. The money has evidently run out. I (the publisher) have not received one red cent from Shel and the postage/printing bill is considerable. I am not complaining about the money, however. I am just as much of a 6m news junkie as the rest of you, and get rather testy if I go more than two months without a 'fix'. I, like many of you, have an 8-5 job, and by the time I get home all that's left on 10m are a few VK beacons. This newsletter and N6AMG's repeater network are my only sources of 6m news. I don't want to see the Bulletin go down the tubes, but I don't see how we can get our present subscribers to renew, let alone attract new ones with the present publication (non)schedule. Since Shel is apparently living (in poverty) on the subscriptions, I'd like to prod him to write more. Unless your subscription expired last August or September, I advise you not to send more money to Shel until he answers the question: "Just how many issues constitute 'as frequently as possible' for 1993?" I don't care if it's 6, 8, 10, or 12, just so the reader knows before he sends in his check. I'll publish almost anything Shel sends me through the end of the year, and send those of you who were subscribers this past fall Bulletins for three months past your expiration. It's either that or writing three issues of ionospheric stuff for last fall and sending it 3rd class and boat mail. BTW, Shel sends me subscription changes only with the Bulletin. Thus, if your friend has received his Bulletin, and you haven't, you should write me.

EME NEWS

W6JKV reports the following stations are operational or have been worked earlier on 6m EME: W6JKV, OH2BC, WA4NJP, WW4T (horizon), K6QXY, KH6HI, K7KV, W5FF/K5FF, K6HCP, K6MYC, K6MYC/KH6, W7HAH (horizon), ZL2BGJ (rhombic), K1WHS, WB0QMN, VE6JW, K8WKZ, WA6BYA (horizon), N5JHV, ZS6WB, AA6TT/0, W5OZI. Jimmy also reports a SSB 50 MHz EME contact with OH2BC on January 8.

1992 Fall TEP Observations by FO5DR

DATE	KH6bcns	Channel 2	Channel 3	Channel 4	ZK1AA@
920901	0635-0815	0645-0815			
920903	0650-0850	0650-0850			0640
920904	0720 weak	0720 weak			0645
920906					0737
920907	0730	0540-0640			0637-0800
920908	0650 weak	0650 weak			0647
920909	0535-0835	0535-0835	0645-0800	0645-0800	0637-0800
920910					0550-0630
920914	0630-0830	0630-0830	0630-0830	0630-0830	0628-0830
920916	0615-0655	0455-0655			
920917	0725-0800	0500-0800			
920920	0540-0940	0540-0940	>0540	>0540	
920921	0645-0845	0645-0845	0700-0845		
920925	0500-0800	0520-0800		0605-0800	
920928		0415-0615			
920930	0515-0835	0435-0835	0615-0835	0615-0835	
921002	0535-0835	0535-0835			
921011	0630-0730	0630-0730	0630-0730		
921012	0640-0840	0640-0840	0640-0840		
921013	0510-0810	0510-0810	0600-0810	0600-0810	0540-0715*
					0620**
921014					0641 weak
921024	0640-0740	0640-0840	0710-0840	0720-0840	
921030	0630-0830	0630-0830			
@ ZK1AA observations of KH6 beacons or channel 2					
* FO5DR-K6FV					
** FO5DR-XE2HWB					